
Surrey teachers work on the unceded traditional territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Qayqayt and Semiahmoo First Nations. As part of meaningful reconciliation work, we reflect on the impacts of colonialism through self-education in order to be accountable to Indigenous people and pay attention to our students of Indigenous ancestry, providing them the tools for their success in the future. We are all on a path to learn more and understand the role of each of us as educators in healing the broken relationship with the First Peoples of this territory. We thank those who live on and care for the land.



STA Connection May 3-7, 2021

We're always advocating for you!

You may wonder what table officers do for you down at the union office when we're not responding to all kinds of members' requests for support. At the monthly meetings we have with the Superintendents' department and the Human Resources department, we talk about concerns that teachers bring to our attention. We also have more regular meetings about specific issues with the Health and Safety department.

Topics covered in these meetings in April included virus transmission, the quarter system schedule proposal for next year, potential layoffs, and the budget crisis as a result of immigration slowing. We always include the impact of all these issues on teachers' mental health as we are well aware of the tremendous strain of teaching in a hotspot zone during a pandemic. We don't always get the responses we'd like when we raise your concerns, but we keep trying!

Please continue to connect with us if you think there is an issue that is not being addressed.

STA Annual General Meeting plans

At the STA Executive meeting on April 27th it was decided that **we will break our General Meeting into two meetings**, so the meetings will not be so long.

The first one, on **May 19th, will deal with the budget**, setting the fee (union dues) for next year, and by-law and policy changes and updates.

The second, on **May 26th, will be for our elections** for the Executive Committee positions and Resolutions committee for next year.

Please save the dates, and see the Call for Nominations for information about elections, including deadlines for submitting campaign materials.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

COVID-19 vaccine registration is open to ALL staff, and for school-based staff wishing to receive a second dose. Fraser Health has requested that all staff interested register directly with the [Provincial Vaccination Website](#). Registration for second doses begins on May 10th, 2021.

This means that previously supplied codes and permission letters have now expired as 30 days has passed from the last initial public health offering. It is also important to remember that vaccination status does not alter the need to follow all Health & Safety Protocols.

National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We stand in solidarity and say #NoMoreStolenSisters. The history of Red Dress Day can be traced back to the REDress Project which is designed to highlight the epidemic of violence against Indigenous women, with each red dress symbolizing an Indigenous woman who has been murdered or is missing. To learn more, please visit [The REDress Project](#).



May 10th is the Day of Action Against Anti-Asian Racism

We at the STA stand in solidarity with our Asian colleagues, students, parents, and community members and strongly condemn the anti-Asian violence, discrimination, and hate crimes that have increased dramatically since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. This coming Monday there is an opportunity to demonstrate our support. **Please show your support for this important work by joining us at SWAC's Day of Action Against Anti-Asian Racism e-rally (on Zoom) on Monday, May 10, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time.**

Register for the e-rally online at <https://t.co/YnWLpKbSPY?amp=1>.

Convention!

Registration for Convention will be closed Thursday May 6th so please register ASAP. Workshops are filling up fast. Register at staconvention.ca!

Reminder: You can attend any teacher-led virtual pro-d activity (including Convention!) from home!



Keynote Speaker
Dr. Gabor Maté

Gabor Maté is a retired physician who, after 20 years of family practice and palliative care experience, worked for over a decade in Vancouver's Downtown East Side with patients challenged by drug addiction and mental illness. The bestselling author of four books published in twenty-five languages, Gabor is an internationally renowned speaker highly sought after for his expertise on addiction, trauma, childhood development, and the relationship of stress and illness. His book on addiction received the Hubert Evans Prize for literary non-fiction. For his groundbreaking medical work and writing he has been awarded the Order of Canada, his country's highest civilian distinction, and the Civic Merit Award from his hometown, Vancouver. His books include *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters With Addiction*; *When the Body Says No: The Cost of Hidden Stress*; *Scattered Minds: The Origins and Healing of Attention Deficit Disorder*; and (with Gordon Neufeld) *Hold on to Your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter More Than Peers*.

Equity and Diversity Panel

 <p>Amrit Cojocar SFU PhD Student in the Education Theory and Practice Program with a focus on Equity Studies</p>	 <p>Mante Molepo Equity and Anti-Racism Advisor, Founding member and Director of Parents for Diversity</p>
 <p>Dr. June Francis Co-Founder of Co-Laboratorio, Director of IDRE at SFU, Associate Professor at Beedie School of Business</p>	 <p>Ken Shelton Educator, ISTE Digital Equity PLN Excellence Award Winner</p>
 <p>Starleigh Grass Member of Tłilhqot'in Nation, BCTF Assistant Director</p>	 <p>Moderator: Annie Ohana Aboriginal Department Head, Anti-Oppression Educator</p>

May 3-7 is TOC week

What would Surrey school district do without our amazing TTOCs? We can't imagine! TTOCs have a special talent of connecting with kids right after walking into a class, not knowing anyone. You make the magic happen! But you have been especially stressed this year, going from school to

school, even when you're feeling stressed about Covid and the potentially higher risk for infection they face having to work in many spaces. Our hats off to all of you amazing colleagues! You are so appreciated!



Reminder to get discipline letters removed from your file

According to our collective agreement article A. 31. 5, "On written request from the employee, a letter of discipline will be removed from the employee's personnel file 5 years from the date of such letter, provided that during the 5-year period the employee was not in receipt of a further letter of discipline." So if this is your case, don't forget to write to ask that such a letter be removed from your file.

2021-2022 PRO D UPDATE

Just an update on the Pro D information published last week. While the STA Aboriginal Education Committee hopes to host a professional development event on November 12th, 2021, please remember that this event does depend on the progression of the COVID pandemic. We are hoping to make a decision about this well-loved event in early September 2021 and will let you know as soon as possible.



BCTF Facilitators needed. Deadline: Friday, 7 May

The BCTF is looking for teachers who are interested in becoming facilitators for the many workshops that make up the BCTF School Union Representative Training (SURT) and Professional and Social Issues workshop programs.

Teacher facilitators are an essential element as “teachers teaching teachers” is the foundation of this program. Every year thousands of teachers attend workshops facilitated by BCTF members and, as most teachers won’t ever meet the members of the BCTF Executive Committee, facilitators are seen as ambassadors of the Federation.

Teachers selected as facilitators for a three-year term receive training both in general design/facilitation skills, and in content-specific program areas.

Facilitators are provided with release time and expenses to cover travel, meals, childcare, and accommodation when they are facilitating workshops.

It is anticipated that workshops will continue to be offered online in the Fall, so applicants need to be comfortable working in an online environment.

Successful applicants must be available to attend the virtual Facilitators’ Institute Training (FIT) on August 18, 19, and 20, 2021.

All training sessions will be held virtually, using Zoom. Workshops are booked throughout the year, but the busiest times are September to November. Facilitators must also be available to facilitate up to three workshops per year, particularly in these busy months, sometimes at short notice. For more information: <https://bctf.ca/opportunities/BCTFCommittees.aspx>

BCTF Committees seeking members. Deadline: June 4th

The BCTF has committees that do the work of the federation, and serving on an advisory committee is a great way to learn more about your union and contribute to our profession! We are the largest local in the BCTF and it’s important that the voices of Surrey teachers are represented. Be sure to contact the STA’s President and/or VPs for endorsements! We would like to see many Surrey teachers get involved in these provincial committees. For more information, visit the [BCTF opportunities page](#).

To illustrate the importance of committees, consider that no one received the G.A. Fergusson award this year because the committee had not been filled! This committee meets only once each year. Could you serve us all on that committee?

G.A. Fergusson Memorial Award Trustees

Three, 3-year terms, to June 30, 2024

This committee meets prior to the Annual General Meeting to examine nominations for the G.A. Fergusson Memorial Award and selects the recipient. Details regarding the award are found under Section 15 on page 89 of the Members’ Guide to the BCTF.

Pro-D Draw

The Pro D Prize draw (formerly known as the international draw) typically held at the STA AGM has been postponed due to the uncertainty around travel. We will add additional draws next year.

STA Donations Committee

If you are interested in serving on this Ad Hoc Committee, please [submit a CV](#) indicating your interest. The work of the committee will include reviewing current donations policies, donations made over the last 5 years as well as making recommendations for policies to adopt for our association to guide decisions about donations to outside organizations. Participants will be appointed at the next Executive Committee meeting.



Surrey Teachers Virtual Meditation

May 12, 2021 at 4:00 pm



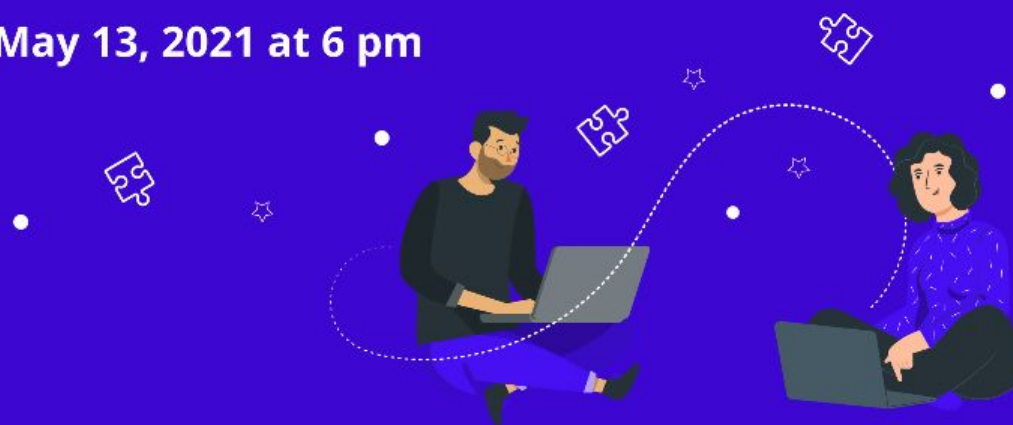
Teaching has never been easy, but this year in particular has been hard for us all. It is important that you take some time to do something for you and your mental health! The emotional benefits of guided meditation can include gaining a new perspective on stressful situations, building skills to manage your stress, increasing self-awareness, focusing on the present, and reducing negative emotions.

The STA Status of Women Committee is hosting another guided virtual meditation session with Catherine Etmanski on Wednesday, May 12 from 4 - 5 pm. Take some time for mental and emotional release and stress relief - take some time for you.

Register at sw-meditationmay2021.eventbrite.ca.

Young Workers Game Night

May 13, 2021 at 6 pm



When: Thursday, May 13th, 6pm-8pm

Where: Zoom

Who: For all young workers in the STA age 35 and under!

What: An online games night using Zoom and other platforms that includes games such as Skribbl, Scattergories, Codenames, and even an opportunity to make an origami crane!

Why: The STA Young Workers Committee cares about making sure new and young members are supported despite the many barriers this particular group faces. Connect, socialize, and stay engaged!

Please register at ywc-gamenight.eventbrite.ca.

For full participation a laptop or computer is recommended. To increase digital equity, there will be game options for those who are only able to connect to Zoom, but not other websites. For further information please contact reception@surreyteachers.org and they will forward questions to the STA Young Workers Committee.

Surrey Teachers Virtual Paint Night

May 20, 2021 at 7 pm

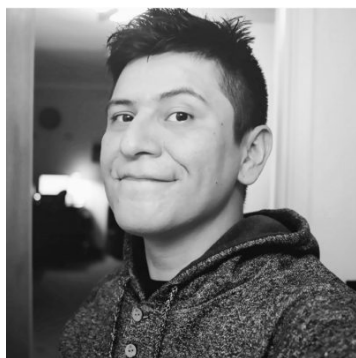


Everyone is invited to join us at 7 pm on Thursday, May 20 while Leanne Whynot (who teaches Art at L.A. Matheson Secondary) shows us how to paint a mountain scene using only 3 colours! This

event is hosted by the STA Status of Women Committee, who will be covering the costs of the canvas, paints, and brushes for all who sign up. The free items will be available for you to pick up at one of 3 locations in Surrey. All that's left for you to prep is the paper towel, masking tape, water cup, palette, and whatever your favourite beverage is! Registration closes at 3 pm on Friday, May 14. We hope to see you there! Register at sw-paintnight.eventbrite.ca.



Come join us for an evening of drawing alongside Ovila Mailhot, a Coast Salish artist from the Sto:lo Nation. Using traditional elements of Coast Salish design Ovila has designed clothing, mural artwork in Vancouver, and even a Valentine's day card for CBC. This event, hosted by the STA Young Workers Committee, is open to all members and aims to bring together Surrey, Chilliwack, and Mission members for a night of art, connection, and fun. Register soon as spots are limited. You'll need paper, pencil/s, and pencil crayons. For questions please email reception@surreyteachers.org.



Ovila Mailhot: Sto:lo Coast Salish Artist

Feel welcome to join me in a fun Coast Salish art session. Learning a bit about the art style, elements used and who I am as an artist & how I express myself through the arts & creativity.

Register at ywc-coastsalish.eventbrite.ca.



BC COVID Update is collecting personal impact stories from educators, students, and parents on

how COVID is impacting them in schools and why we need safer schools. The goal is to show our provincial decision makers, the media, and the public on what is actually happening on the ground in schools and why change is needed.

The stories will be shared on the BC COVID Update website, and with decision-makers, media, and the general public. This will hopefully place public pressure on the government to be more motivated to act on better schools policies.

We encourage you and your colleagues to participate and share your personal stories, which can be anonymized. For more information on what to write and how to submit, visit here:

<https://t.co/BbqU2bmAhi>



A promotional poster for a virtual breakfast event. The background is white with faint, light blue icons of various food items like a fork, knife, spoon, pizza, and watermelon. The text 'Virtual Breakfast with the Bank' is prominently displayed in a mix of blue and red fonts. Below this, it says '"NOURISHING COMMUNITY"' in blue. The date 'Friday, May 14, 2021' and time '8:00 AM - 9:00 AM' are listed, along with the instruction 'from your home (details will follow)'. RSVP information is provided: 'RSVP by calling: 604.581.5443 X106 or by email: acx@surreyfoodbank.org'. A red circular badge with white text says 'SAVE THE DATE'. On the right side, there are four Polaroid-style photos: a family smiling, a group of people at a table, a shopping cart filled with groceries, and a person wearing a mask and gloves handling food. At the bottom left is the 'SURREY FOOD BANK' logo, and at the bottom right is the text 'PEOPLE LIKE YOU DONORS | VOLUNTEERS | CLIENTS'.

Virtual Breakfast with the Bank
"NOURISHING COMMUNITY"
.....
Friday, May 14, 2021
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
from your home (details will follow)
RSVP by calling: 604.581.5443 X106
or by email: acx@surreyfoodbank.org
SAVE THE DATE
SURREY FOOD BANK
PEOPLE LIKE YOU
DONORS | VOLUNTEERS | CLIENTS



STA EVENTS

All STA committee meetings are open to all members, contact us for more information.

May 6 – PAPR Committee

May 7 – [STA Convention](#)

May 10 – Ad Hoc Indigenization of the STA Committee

May 10 – Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee

May 10 – Pro D Committee

May 11 – Executive Committee

May 12 – Health and Safety Committee

May 12 – [Surrey Teachers Virtual Meditation](#)

May 13 – [Young Workers Game Night](#)

May 13 – International Solidarity Committee

May 13 – Local Specialist Associations Council meeting

May 17 – Anti-Racism Committee

May 19 – AGM #1 – Budget, Fee, Bylaw updates

May 20 – [Surrey Teachers Virtual Paint Night](#)

May 21 – [Young Workers Coast Salish Art Night](#)

May 26 – AGM #2– STA elections